

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087007
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
ACDA-12 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 SIG-03 NRC-05
H-01 /083 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR/DJMCCONNELL
APPROVED BY EUR:GVEST
S/PRS:JTRATTNER
S/S:DANDERSON
PM/ISP:JHAWES

-----113237 050110Z /15

O 050032Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 087007

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS; PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN APRIL 4 ON ERW:

Q. HAS A DECISION BEEN MADE ON THE PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON
WEAPONS?

A. WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONSULT WITH OUR NATO ALLIES ON
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THIS QUESTION AND WILL HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT UNTIL
THESE CONSULTATIONS ARE COMPLETE. NO FINAL DECISION HAS
BEEN MADE.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO HIS MEETING WITH FRG FONMIN GENSCHER
APRIL 4, SECRETARY MADE FOLLOWING COMMENT TO PRESS:

Q. MR. SECRETARY CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER HAS DECIDED TO HALT PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB?

A. (SECRETARY) "HE HAS NOT DECIDED THAT QUESTION. WE ARE GOING OVER TO DISCUSS THAT AND OTHER ISSUES WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY ON IT."

3. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, FOLLOWING EXCHANGE WITH PRESS OCCURRED INVOLVING GENSCHER AND SECRETARY:

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT)

(SECRETARY): THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I MET WITH THE PRESIDENT. WE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB ALONG WITH OTHER MATTERS...AND REVIEWED THE SITUATION.

(QUESTION TO GENSCHER): WHAT IS YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON IT?

(GENSCHER): I WANT FIRST TO SAY THAT THIS VISIT HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR A LONG TIME. THE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT IS TO HAVE A FRIENDLY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, THE FORTHCOMING NATO SUMMIT... OF COURSE THE QUESTION YOU MENTIONED WAS A SUBJECT OF AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. IN THAT, THE POSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT IS WELL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KNOWN. WE FEEL THAT THE POSITION TO BE TAKEN BY THE USA ALONE AND ALL OTHER QUESTIONS RELATING TO THAT MUST BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ALLIANCE. THIS QUESTION IS NOT A GERMAN-AMERICAN ISSUE. THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WOULD WELCOME THE PRODUCTION (UNINTELLIGIBLE). IT'S NOT MY INTENTION TO EXPLAIN THE POSITION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC. WE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR LONG AGO AND SAID WE THINK THE DECISION TO PRODUCE IS AN AMERICAN DECISION. ALL THE OTHER QUESTIONS ARE RELATED TO NATO AND HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATO, AND THERE THE POSITIONS OF THE VARIOUS ALLIES WILL BE EXPLAINED AND SET FORTH.

Q. BUT MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES IS NOT GOING TO PRODUCE THIS BOMB IF YOU DON'T WANT IT. I MEAN WE'RE NOT GOING TO FORCE IT ON YOU. SO SURELY YOUR DESIRE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHETHER WE PRODUCE IT OR NOT.

GENSCHER: I CAN ONLY REPEAT OUR POSITION BY REPEATING WHAT I'VE SAID ALREADY.

Q. EXPECT DECISION TO BE MADE SHORTLY OR WILL IT BE A LONG TIME?

SECRETARY: I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU AN EXACT DATE. I THINK IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

Q. BUT WON'T YOU MAKE IT BASED ON WHETHER OUR NATO ALLIES WANT THE WEAPON OR NOT?

SECRETARY: OF COURSE, CONSULTATION WITH THE NATO ALLIES IS PART OF THE PROCESS. THAT'S WHY WE'RE REVIEWING IT WITH THEM.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, IS THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY WRONG? LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARY: IT IS NOT ACCURATE INsofar AS IT SAYS THAT A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. A DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE.

Q. IS IT ACCURATE TO SAY THAT A GREAT DEBATE IS BEING WAGED WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION?

SECRETARY: I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT.

3. IN VIEW OF HEAVY PRESS SPECULATION ON POSSIBILITY OF A PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON ERW, POSTS SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND GUIDANCE IN PARA ONE ABOVE.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 /029 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:VALERGA

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:VALERGA

-----120100 050926Z /15

O 050915Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

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FOL STATE 087007 SENT ACTION ALL NATO CAPITALS MADRID MOSCOW
GENEVA INFO USNMR SHAPE APR 5, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION, DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE087007
Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: SJLEDOGAR/DJMCCONNELL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780146-0177
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780489/aaaacxwc.tel
Line Count: 295
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5afbedb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3064599
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS; PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: MNUC, SOPN, NATO, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: NATO POSTS MADRID MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5afbedb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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